



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Office of Communications

*Karen Black
410-767-6490/91*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Health Officials Warn of Carbon Monoxide Dangers

BALTIMORE, MD (August 26, 2011) – As Maryland residents prepare for the arrival of Hurricane Irene, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is urging everyone to be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide when using gas-powered appliances and charcoal or gas grills.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas, and is highly poisonous.

Depending on the level of exposure, carbon monoxide may cause fatigue, weakness, chest pains for those with heart disease, shortness of breath upon exertion, nausea, vomiting, headaches, confusion, lack of coordination, impaired vision, loss of consciousness, and in severe cases, death.

DHMH also recommends not using small, portable cooking grills inside the home or in close proximity to dwellings. Sparks or an unattended grill may lead to fires.

More hurricane public health and safety tips are available on the DHMH web site at: www.dhmh.maryland.gov.

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